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Communist China - UK: In a surprise move, the Chinese told the British on 25 July that exit visas could be granted to all members of the mission, including the chargé. This blanket offer was made when the British came to pick up visas already granted to four junior staff members. The British immediately applied for 18 new exit visas. The Chinese have been holding the British mission hostage for about a year, insisting that "outstanding issues" in Hong Kong have to be resolved before Sino-UK relations can be normalized. It remains to be seen whether Peking actually intends to follow through on its offer without some British concession on Hong Kong.

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Uruguay: The Communist Party is promoting a general strike today to block congressional approval of strict wage and labor controls proposed by the government. The strike comes on the heels of increased student agitation, and party leaders apparently believe that the necessity to maintain the posture of a worker-oriented revolutionary organization justifies the risk of provoking a severe government crackdown. If the stoppage is prolonged or leads to major violence, President Pacheco may well outlaw the party.

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[Iraq: President Bakr, leader of the "moderate" wing of Iraq's Baath Party who ousted the short-lived Nayif regime on 30 July, has assumed the added role of prime minister in a new cabinet announced yesterday. At least 11 of the 26 cabinet members are Baathists, including the ministers of defense, interior, and foreign affairs, and many were members of the Baathist cabinet formed after the coup of February 1963. Seven Baathist and four non-Baathist members of the ousted Nayif government have been retained, including two Kurds. Despite a sprinkling of technicians and political unknowns, the composition of the cabinet seems to indicate that Bakr intends to keep his party firmly in the saddle.]

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